

Amendment under 37 C.F.R. § 1.111  
Serial No. 09/811,510  
Attorney Docket No. 010314

**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:**

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

**Listing of claims:**

Claim 1 (Currently amended): A print control method for a tandem printing system having a host unit which supplies print data to a plurality of printers which are connected serially to each adjacent printer by a tandem-connection, and each printer being connected to a single tandem control unit that controls printing operations in the tandem printing system, said print control method comprising the step of:

(a) controlling synchronous operations of the plurality of printers by the ~~a single~~ tandem control unit which is operable independently of the host unit and is provided independently of the host unit and is provided independently of the plurality of printers.

Claim 2 (Original): The print control method as claimed in claim 1, further comprising the step of:

(b) exchanging commands and/or status of the plurality of printers with the host unit by the tandem control unit.

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Claim 3 (Original): The print control method as claimed in claim 1, further comprising the step of:

(b) controlling the plurality of printers to carry out automatic loading of a continuous recording sheet in synchronism with each other by the tandem control unit.

Claim 4 (Original): The print control method as claimed in claim 1, further comprising the step of:

(b) setting a non-printing transport mode in which no printing is carried out and only transport of a continuous recording sheet is made, with respect to one or a plurality of arbitrary printers of the plurality of printers.

Claim 5 (Original): The print control method as claimed in claim 2, further comprising the step of:

(c) controlling the plurality of printers to carry out automatic loading of a continuous recording sheet in synchronism with each other by the tandem control unit.

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Claim 6 (Original): The print control method as claimed in claim 5, further comprising the step of:

(d) setting a non-printing transport mode in which no printing is carried out and only transport of the continuous recording sheet is made, with respect to one or a plurality of arbitrary printers of the plurality of printers.

Claim 7 (Original): The print control method as claimed in claim 2, further comprising the step of:

(c) setting a non-printing transport mode in which no printing is carried out and only transport of a continuous recording sheet is made, with respect to one or a plurality of arbitrary printers of the plurality of printers.

Claim 8 (Currently amended): A tandem printing system comprising:  
a plurality of printers connected serially to each adjacent printer by a tandem-connection  
and printing print data with respect to a continuous recording sheet;  
a host unit supplying the print data to the plurality of printers;  
and a single tandem control unit that controls printing operations in the tandem printing system, operable independently of the host unit and provided independently of the host unit and

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provided independently of the plurality of printers, said tandem control unit ~~including means for~~ controlling synchronous operations of the plurality of printers.

Claim 9 (Original): The tandem printing system as claimed in claim 8, wherein said tandem control unit further includes means for exchanging commands and/or status of the plurality of printers with the host unit.

Claim 10 (Original): The tandem printing system as claimed in claim 8, wherein said tandem control unit further includes means for controlling the plurality of printers to carry out automatic loading of the continuous recording sheet in synchronism with each other.

Claim 11 (Original): The tandem printing system as claimed in claim 8, wherein said tandem control unit further includes means for setting a non-printing transport mode in which no printing is carried out and only transport of the continuous recording sheet is made, with respect to one or a plurality of arbitrary printers of the plurality of printers.

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Claim 12 (Original): The tandem printing system as claimed in claim 9, wherein said tandem control unit further includes means for controlling the plurality of printers to carry out automatic loading of the continuous recording sheet in synchronism with each other.

Claim 13 (Original): The tandem printing system as claimed in claim 12, wherein said tandem control unit further includes means for setting a non-printing transport mode in which no printing is carried out and only transport of the continuous recording sheet is made, with respect to one or a plurality of arbitrary printers of the plurality of printers.

Claim 14 (Original): The tandem printing system as claimed in claim 9, wherein said tandem control unit further includes means for setting a non-printing transport mode in which no printing is carried out and only transport of the continuous recording sheet is made, with respect to one or a plurality of arbitrary printers of the plurality of printers.

Claim 15 (New): The print control method as claimed in claim 1, further comprising:

(e) controlling errors generated in the plurality of printers by the tandem control unit.

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Claim 16 (New): The print control method as claimed in claim 15, wherein the error controlling further comprises:

monitoring errors generated in the plurality of printers:

recording the errors in the tandem control unit; and

notifying the plurality of printers of the error information for synchronous operations thereof.

Claim 17 (New): The print control method as claimed in claim 1, further comprising:

(f) controlling switches of the plurality of printers, by the tandem control unit.

Claim 18 (New): The print control method as claimed in claim 17, wherein the switch controlling further comprises:

monitoring switches of the plurality of printers which are pushed;

determining priority order among the pushed switches; and

instructing operations which are indicated by the pushed switches in the determined priority order.

Claim 19 (New): The tandem printing system as claimed in claim 8, wherein the tandem control unit further comprises:

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an error controller that controls errors generated in the plurality of printers, the error controller monitoring and recording the errors and notifying the plurality of printers of the error information for synchronous operations thereof.

Claim 20 (New): The tandem printing system as claimed in claim 8, wherein the tandem control unit further comprises:

a switch controller that controls switches of the plurality of printers, the switch controller monitoring the switches which are pushed, determining priority order among the pushed switches, and instructing operations which are indicated by the pushed switches in the determined priority order.